

would add a "fast-track" process by which Congress could regularly add those prevention services that were scientifically proven to be effective to Medicare.

Every day, scientists discover new early detection, disease prevention, and health promotion tools, and those tools aren't just for young people—research shows that lifestyle changes can increase life expectancy and quality of living for people of all ages. Unfortunately, the Medicare program, which was created in 1965, has not kept up with these exciting advances in health promotion. Medicare provides state-of-the-art care to sick people, but does little to keep them well.

As a result, last year Medicare spent over \$35 billion providing acute care to people with heart disease, \$6 billion treating people who had strokes, over \$5 billion treating lung disease, and \$2 billion treating severe depression. While these expenditures can't be eliminated, we believe there is significant scientific evidence that health promotion and early detection could substantially reduce them.

Representative Foley and I are pleased to be joined in this effort by our colleagues BOB GRAHAM, OLYMPIA SNOWE, and JIM JEFFORDS in the other body. We hope Congress will move quickly to pass this bipartisan, bicameral bill which has been endorsed by over 20 groups ranging from the American Cancer Society and the American Heart Association to the National Council on Aging.

When you think about it, it's not surprising that The Medicare Wellness Act has such broad support. Better health care for seniors. Cost savings for Medicare. Who would oppose that?

CONFERENCE REPORT ON H.R. 1836,
ECONOMIC GROWTH AND TAX
RELIEF RECONCILIATION ACT OF
2001

SPEECH OF

HON. BOB ETHERIDGE

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 25, 2001

Mr. ETHERIDGE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong opposition to the Republican tax bill. Unfortunately, this bill is a missed opportunity, and it represents misplaced priorities.

Sadly Mr. Speaker, this bill is very much a missed opportunity. The White House and the Republican Leadership have utterly failed to deliver on the President's promise of a bipartisan process that puts accomplishment for the American people above gamesmanship by Washington politicians.

More importantly, this bill fails to provide for America's priorities. We must pay down the national debt to remove that burden from our children and grandchildren and cut interest rates for items like cars and homes. This Republican tax package will return us to the days of big deficits, high interest rates, high unemployment and a struggling economy.

I support and have voted for balanced tax relief as part of a comprehensive economic plan that will restore America's prosperity so that all of our hard working families can have security in their family finances. We must pass

a strong economic plan, not a risky gamble with our nation's economic strength.

The Republican bill mortgages the future based on a guess. If the projected surpluses fall to materialize, Social Security and Medicare will be on the chopping block. The American people know that the budget projections are not real. They are an estimate. It is irresponsible to make decisions that will directly impact people's lives based on a ten-year number we know is no more reliable than a ten-year hurricane forecast.

This bill is a cynical maneuver for short-term political gain. I support and have voted for exempting virtually all North Carolina families from the estate tax, but this bill sunsets in 2010 which would reinstate the estate tax. I support immediate relief from the marriage penalty, but this bill will hurt families by driving up interest rates on homes, cars, and credit cards.

As the only former state schools chief serving in Congress, I was very pleased by the President's promise to improve education. But this bill saps the resources we need to strengthen our schools for the 21st Century. The bill does nothing to help states build schools to relieve overcrowding and get our students out of trailers even though we have strong, bipartisan support for tax legislation to accomplish that priority. And the spending cuts that this bill requires will threaten child care, Head Start, job training and college aid that are vitally important to allow people to make the most of their God-given abilities.

Mr. Speaker, a great deal of attention has been paid lately to the trouble on Wall Street and signs the economic boom may well be over. One sector that hasn't been booming for some time is agriculture, and farmers in my district have been hurting in the face of production cuts, commodity price losses and natural disasters. I was appalled when the Budget Committee passed its budget that would gut important farm programs to finance this tax bill. If approved, these cuts would eliminate funds to identify solutions to the state's hog waste problems and force dozens of our Farm Service Agency offices to close their doors. These agriculture cuts are wrong, and I will fight to restore them despite the expected passage of this Republican tax bill.

Mr. Speaker, we can have responsible tax relief balanced with sound investments in our nation's future, but this tax bill is a missed opportunity. I urge my colleagues to vote down this bill and come together to pass a responsible tax cut that honors America's values and respects the people's priorities.

IN HONOR OF THE RETIREMENT
OF MISS MADELINE MALONE

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 5, 2001

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and recognize Miss Madeline Malone of Lakewood, Ohio for her 43 years of dedicated teaching service on this seventh day of June, 2001.

It seems that everyone who walks the halls of St. James School in Lakewood, Ohio knows

Miss Madeline Malone. Her kind spirit and gentle smile have greeted students for the past four decades. Her teaching style has captured the hearts and minds of countless students who now live throughout northeastern Ohio and beyond.

Miss Malone taught primarily History and Social Studies to junior high students; however, she taught not only from a textbook. Her life lessons and wisdom touched the souls of each of her students. Her career has been a distinguished one. Her past students recognize her and remember her teachings. Upon retirement, there is no doubt that she will be missed.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in recognizing Miss Madeline Malone, a fine teacher and citizen. Her love of children has earned her the respect of students, parents, and faculty, as well as the entire Lakewood community.

TRIBUTE TO RON STARK

HON. JOE BACA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 5, 2001

Mr. BACA. Mr. Speaker, I rise to salute Ron Stark, the outgoing President of the Rancho Cucamonga Chamber of Commerce, and a leading citizen of our community.

Ron is admired in the Inland Empire community for his strong record of business success and public service. He is the owner of Star Kreative Services, a full-service Marketing and Advertising Agency, specializing in budgeting, planning, media purchases, and complete corporate identity design.

Ron's leadership this past year is indicative of a Chamber President who continuously gives of his time and finances to promote a business friendly environment that enhances the quality of life and the economy of Rancho Cucamonga. He has served on the Board of Directors since 1995 and began his term as President July 1, 2000.

Some of the accomplishments under Ron's leadership were: Increased the image and visibility of the Chamber to its members and the community by moving into the historic Thomas Winery Plaza. Reorganized the community's 61-year-old Grape Harvest Festival to a true premier community event. Established a monthly President's Roundtable of nine Inland Valley Chambers, which discusses regional economic development and legislative issues. Encouraged the creation of a West End Community Calendar on the Chamber's Website, which enhances special event planning among the Chambers and service clubs. It offers the community and visitors a complete calendar of events 24 hours a day. Continued the Annual Spring Swing and Vintner's Dinner as pre-eminent events in the Inland Empire. Formed an effective Business Advocacy Group that tracks all legislation impacting the business community. This enhanced the Chamber's image as a true watchdog for the business community. He also wrote letters to various legislators urging either support or opposition to various legislation that would have an impact on the community. Increased "Shop Rancho" promotion activities encouraging the residents to "Shop